

From: Joe Cool
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/17/01 2:49pm
Subject: Unhappy

Justice Department,

Thank you for allowing the citizenry to leave comments about MS/DoJ settlement. Officially I would like my comment to be "very unhappy with the decision/settlement".

I could spend my moment here by talking about economics, innovation, financial responsibilities or even social costs; however, I will skip that in favor of one thing: the future of our country.

Read the polls, the studies, talk with your peers and you will find a decreasing hopefulness in the future felt by the bulk of the citizenry. I believe I know enough finance and politics to realize most of how and why government policy is shaped. But remember our attitudes of all life's aspects over the last 30+ years. You don't need to read the statistics, ask yourself. I believe you will find this 'decreased hopefulness' also. That is, unless you are not in the majority.

If you believe this declining state, then you should be wary how you support any given current government agenda. Making decisions based on desired results in a given 2 or 4 year period can be at odds with an increasingly hopeful, promising future for the bulk citizenry. The better, long term solution should be chosen, yes? What is better, how is that measured? Measured so many ways, I suggest looking at this one: The one which promises the greatest long-term net social benefit. This should be calculated by the entity which benefits individually the least over all outcomes.

Corporations are made to last more than a lifetime. So is our government. Both types need decisions which will ensure continued success (success is defined differently for each). Individually we need to pay bills, be employed; but we have the chance to help ensure this is the greatest country in the world. I realize this may be difficult, but do you really want to continue making decisions which choose a few over

the many? This is why I am "unhappy with the decision/settlement". Once again, thank you for listening, we are all supposed to be the government. By the people, for the people.

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